

40



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,800	03/09/2001	Hatem Trabelsi	T2147-906762	6158

7590 02/23/2005

Miles & Stockbridge P. C.  
Suite 500  
1751 Pinnacle Drive  
McLean, VA 22102-3833

EXAMINER

DALENCOURT, YVES

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2157

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/740,800	<b>Applicant(s)</b> TRABELSI, HATEM	
	<b>Examiner</b> Yves Dalencourt	<b>Art Unit</b> 2157	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This office action is responsive to amendment filed on 10/04/2004.

#### ***Response to Amendment***

The examiner has acknowledged the amended claims 11, 14, 22 – 29, and 32 – 34, and the new abstract.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 - 34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al (US 5,941,947; hereinafter Brown) in view of Hudson et al (US 6,055,637; hereinafter Hudson).

Regarding claims 11 - 13 and 29 - 31, Brown teaches a method for controlling access to a requestor to resources in a distributed computer system (fig. 1) comprising defining conditions for obtaining a right to a resource, assigning to the requester an

access control list based on user's access rights, defining a part of a set of resources that is accessible by a validity domain, and utilizing the validity domain to restrict the resources accessible for the user to only part of the resources (col. 1, lines 27 – 56; col. 2, lines 46 – 57; paragraph bridging col. 15, line 38 through col. 16, line 67). Claim 29 adds the limitation of a software module for controlling access by a requestor to resources (col. 6, lines 18 – 31; col. 31, lines 30 - 42).

Brown teaches substantially all the limitations, but fails to specifically teach that such method for controlling access to a requestor to resources in a distributed computer system is based on assigned role(s) to user(s); wherein the role overlaying one or more privileges and capable of being assigned to a plurality of requestors.

However, Hudson teaches, in the same filed of endeavor, a resource access control system and method for a corporate enterprise includes a security administrator in communication with a plurality of users, each of the users having an assigned role and a unique user identifier wherein the role overlaying one or more privileges and capable of being assigned to a plurality of requestors (fig. 2; col. 3, lines 8 – 66; col. 5, lines 15 – 63).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brown's system and method by assigning a role to user(s), and role overlaying one or more privileges and capable of being assigned to a plurality of requestors for the purpose of allowing various resources not to store permanently information associated with all the users, and permitting user information to

be updated quickly and efficiently at local security administrator, thereby, preventing the integrity of the entire system of being compromised.

Regarding claims 14 – 16 and 32 - 34, Brown and Hudson teach all the limitations, and Brown further teaches a method for controlling access to a requestor to resources in a distributed computer system (fig. 2A), which further comprises the steps of performing an access check on two levels: a first level check on the type of the resource; and a second level check on the identifier; wherein the first-level check verifies the existence of at least one entry of the access control list that satisfies conditions for obtaining a requested right of entry, and if, the right of entry exists, the existence of a validity domain for said entry; wherein the second-level check verifies, if a requested permission for right of entry contains a resource identifier, the existence of at least one configured permission corresponding to the requested permission and the value of the additional information relative to the need to consult the validity (fig. 3B; col. 4, lines 40 – 65; col. 11, lines 3 – 31; col. 19, lines 52 - 67).

Regarding claims 17 - 21, Brown and Hudson teach all the limitations, and Brown further teaches a method for controlling access to a requestor to resources in a distributed computer system (fig. 2A), which further comprises the steps of grouping rights or resources into generic groups represented by special characters or keywords or other symbols (figs. 5A – 5B; col. 16, lines 55 – 67; col. 20, lines 53 - 63).

Regarding claims 22 - 25, Brown teaches a device for controlling access by a requestor to interrogated resources in a distributed computer system (fig. 8), comprising at least one management machine organized into one or more networks said machine

having at least one calling entity, for designating actions executed by the requestor (fig. 1; paragraph bridging col. 6, line 66 through col. 7, line 37), an application program interface for transmitting interrogations from the calling entity, an access control service for receiving said interrogations and controlling access of the requestors to the interrogated resources, storage means for storing access rights data, access control lists and validity domains and means for accessing the storage means (col. 3, lines 26 – 44; col. 7, lines 48 - 60).

Brown teaches substantially all the limitations, but fails to specifically teach that such storage means is for storing roles; wherein the roles overlaying one or more privileges and capable of being assigned to one or more requestors.

However, Hudson teaches, in the same filed of endeavor, a resource access control system and method for a corporate enterprise includes a security administrator in communication with a plurality of users, which comprises a storage means for storing roles (col. 4, lines 50 - 64); wherein the roles overlaying one or more privileges and capable of being assigned to one or more requestors (fig. 2; col. 3, lines 8 – 66; col. 5, lines 15 – 63).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brown's system and method by incorporating a storage means for storing roles; wherein the roles overlaying one or more privileges and capable of being assigned to one or more requestors for the purpose of allowing various resources not to store permanently information associated with all the users, and permitting user information to be updated quickly and efficiently at local security

administrator, thereby, preventing the integrity of the entire system of being compromised.

Regarding claims 26 - 28, Brown and Hudson teach all the limitations, and Brown further teaches a device for controlling access by a requestor to interrogated resources in a distributed computer system (fig. 8), further comprising means for performing an access check on two levels: a first-level check on the type of the resource; and a second-level check on the identifier of the resource (2d); wherein a first-level check verifies the existence of at least one entry of the access control list that satisfies conditions for obtaining a requested right of entry to a resource, and, if the entry exists, the existence of a validity domain for said entry; and wherein a second level check verifies if a requested right of entry to a resource contains a resource identifier, the existence of at least one configured permission corresponding to the requested right of entry and the value of additional information relative to the need to consult the validity domain (fig. 3B; col. 4, lines 40 – 65; col. 11, lines 3 – 31; col. 19, lines 52 - 67).

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Carter et al. (US Patent Number 6,742,114) discloses a deputization in a distributed computing system.

Art Unit: 2157

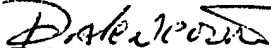
### **Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yves Dalencourt whose telephone number is (571) 272-3998. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 7:30AM - 6: 00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Yves Dalencourt

  
February 21, 2005